



USDA Forest Service
Southwestern Region
Fire and Aviation Management



Women in Wildland Fire Boot Camp

OUTREACH NOTICE

Women in Wildland Fire Boot Camp 2016

Application Deadline: Monday, October 3, 2016
Selection letters will be mailed October 5, 2016.

Do you want a career where you're respected and appreciated?

Do you want to help your community and your country?

Do you want to be a leader and role model?

Are you physically fit?

**If so, you may have what it takes to become a
Wildland Firefighter!**

The USDA Forest Service, Southwest Region, is seeking a small group of career-focused women or other individuals to become temporary seasonal employees and on-call wildland firefighters for the 2017 fire season. These seasonal and on-call positions will provide support to wildland fire operations over the summer when needed and can help pave the way for future employment and career advancement in the Forest Service. If you are selected for this opportunity, your first assignment will be to attend and complete the Women in Fire Boot Camp. The Boot Camp will provide comprehensive, formal physical Wildland Fire Training and orientation. Upon successfully completing this training, each person will receive Wildland Firefighter certification and personal protective gear.



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Position Details

Persons selected to these positions will provide temporary emergency support on wildland fires and other emergency operations throughout the Southwest and nationally and will be provided opportunity for seasonal employment. The Boot Camp assignment will deliver basic firefighting training and some preparation for the Work Capacity Test (WCT), which is required to meet National Wildfire Coordinating Group Red Card qualification as a Wildland Firefighter. (See **Minimum Federal Qualification Requirements** on the following page.) All participants must pass the basic training and the WCT before becoming certified.

This program is designed to assist selected participants in becoming more competitive in applying for seasonal positions and gives them the opportunity to gain experience through an administratively determined (AD) emergency hire program if not selected for seasonal work. Participants will be paid for the Boot Camp. Base pay for these positions starts at the AD-B rate of \$15.96/hour. Those selected for this work must remain on call. The main duty stations will be in Arizona and New Mexico with expected travel within the Southwest or across the country, on short notice for work assignments lasting up to 14 days. Please note that this is an intermittent position with a workload entirely dependent on wildland fire conditions in the Southwest and across the nation. This position does not guarantee permanent employment but is a good starting point for those interested in a Forest Service career.

Participants on wildland fire assignments can expect to be away from home for an extended period of time, exposed to primitive living conditions such as camping in wilderness without electricity, showers, or cell phone reception for days on end. Other assignments may land them in urban areas with all the amenities. Operating vehicles both on and off road, hiking, commercial flights, boat rides, and mission flights on helicopters are just some of the modes of transportation to be expected on the job.

Wildland firefighters can operate in close proximity to open flame, heat, and smoke. The work can be physically demanding, requiring up to 16-hour work days for up to 14 days in a row without a day off. The work consists of hiking, carrying heavy equipment, operating fire apparatus, working near heavy machinery, and using hand tools such as



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shovels, pulaskis, and chainsaws, many times in high-stress situations. Respect, flexibility, understanding, crew cohesion, and teamwork are the foundation of any good firefighter. Exhibiting these principles both on and off the clock is expected.

Major Duties

- Participate in training (classroom and field).
- Participate in physical fitness.
- Keep self and equipment fit for duty, in response-ready condition.
- Remain on call for response to wildland fires and other emergencies.
- Travel and work 14-day assignments, possibly out of state.
- Safely engage in wildland fire suppression and other emergency response operation activities.

Minimum Federal Qualification Requirements

1. Must be 18-37 years of age. (Exceptions will be considered.)
2. Must be in good mental and physical condition.
3. Must be able to pass basic wildland firefighter training (provided).
4. Must be able to pass the Forest Service Work Capacity Test at the “Arduous” level. This involves a 3-mile walk that must be completed in less than 45 minutes wearing a 45-pound weighted vest (provided).

Training and How to Apply

Please fill out attached Application, Health Screening Questionnaire, WCT Informed Consent Form, and return via mail, fax or email, following the directions on the Application.

Training will be held October 21-23 and October 28-30, 2016, at two separate locations in southwestern New Mexico. To receive a certificate and be fully qualified, they must attend both weekends and complete all required training.



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October 21-23, 2016 Session:	October 28-30, 2016 Session:
Gila National Forest Black Range Ranger District 1804 North Date St. Truth or Consequences, NM 87901	Gila National Forest Black Range Ranger District Beaverhead Work Center (Directions will be provided during the first weekend.)

S-130/S-190: Firefighting Training and Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior. This introductory course is designed to train entry-level firefighters (referred to as *Firefighter Type 2*). They will be introduced to and gain knowledge of the basic incident management organization, firefighting techniques, suppression equipment, safety, strategy, and tactics along with fire behavior. Field exercises will be performed for valuable hands-on training. Includes L-180, I-100, and fire shelter deployment.

I-100 pre-work	https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.b
S-190	Module 1: Basic Concepts of Wildland Fire Module 2: Fuel, Topography, and Weather Module 3: Fire Behavior
A version of L-180, <i>Human Factors on the Fireline</i> , is included in this course. Credit should be issued for both S-130 and L-180 upon completion.	Module 1: Preparedness, ICS, and Resources Module 2: Watch Out and LCES Module 3: Fire Shelter Module 4: Potential Hazards and Human Factors on the Fireline Module 5: Transportation Safety Module 6: Hand Tools Module 7: Firing Devices Module 8: Water Use Module 9: Suppression, Communication, and Mop-up Module 10: Hazardous Materials Module 11: Wildland-Urban Interface Module 12: Optional Knowledge Areas Module 13: Performance Day Requirements https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-700.a



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Fire Shelter
Training

Timed Fire shelter Deployment Test

About the Region

The Southwestern Region consists of about 2,800 permanent employees on 11 national forests and 4 national grasslands in Arizona, New Mexico, and the panhandle areas of Texas and Oklahoma. The southwestern United States is one of the most diverse, rapidly growing regions of the country. In 1997, New Mexico became the first state in the continental U. S. in which "minority groups" collectively represent over 50 percent of the state's population. This "minority-majority" demographic situation reflects the complexity, diversity, and opportunities that we face in carrying out our mission of "caring for the land and serving people." Our programs represent the full complexity of natural resource management in the Forest Service, with an emphasis on customer service and contributing to the Southwestern quality of life.

Contact Information

Primary Contact	Secondary Contact
Francesca Chavez USDA Forest Service Quemado Ranger District #1 Forest Service Circle Quemado, NM 87829 (505)-306-5181 fechavez@fs.fed.us	Joe Scholz USDA Forest Service Sandia Ranger District 11776 Hwy. 337 Tijeras, NM 87059 (505)-270-5525 jlscholz@fs.fed.us

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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Application

Must be 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen to apply.

Name: (Last, First): _____ Date: _____

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female Date of birth: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Statement of disability:

Do you have a physical or other disability requiring accommodations? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe: _____

Do you have any allergies or special dietary considerations? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe: _____

Preferred method of contact:

Phone #: () - or e-mail: _____

School (if any): _____

The Forest Service will offer basic wildland firefighter training in southwestern New Mexico over two consecutive weekends in late October. The training will be offered on a limited basis to a selected number of students. Those students selected will be notified by October 5, 2016.

Will you need lodging to attend the training? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have reliable access to the Internet for completing the required online training courses? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are there circumstances that would reduce your availability for fire assignments this summer? ☐ Yes ☐ No



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Specifically describe your interest in wildland firefighting.

Briefly describe your interest in natural resource conservation (forestry, wildlife biology, hydrology, soil science, etc.)



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How did you hear about this opportunity? _____

Is there anything else you would like us to consider? _____

By October 3, return completed Nomination Form, Health Screening Questionnaire, and Work Capacity Test Informed Consent Form via mail, fax, or e-mail to:

Mail: USDA Forest Service
ATTN: Colleen Loretto
Fire and Aviation Management
333 Broadway Blvd., SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Fax: (505) 842-3806
E-mail: cloretto@fs.fed.us

ALL FORMS MUST BE SENT OR YOUR APPLICATION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

For more information, visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/re/fire-aviation>

WCT Level

__ Arduous

__ Moderate

__ Light

HEALTH SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE (HSQ)***Assess your health needs by marking all true statements.***

The purpose is to identify individuals who may be at risk in taking the Work Capacity Test (WCT) and recommend an exercise program and/or medical examination prior to taking the WCT.

Employees are required to answer the following questions. The questions were designed, in consultation with occupational health physicians, to identify individuals who may be at risk when taking a WCT. The HSQ is not a medical examination. Any medical concerns you have that place you or your health at risk should be reviewed with your personal physician prior to participating in the WCT.

Check 'Yes' or 'No' in response to the following questions:

- ☐ Y ☐ N 1) During the past 12 months have you at any time (during physical activity or while resting) experienced pain, discomfort or pressure in your chest.
- ☐ Y ☐ N 2) During the past 12 months have you experienced difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, dizziness, fainting, or blackout?
- ☐ Y ☐ N 3) Do you have a blood pressure with systolic (top #) greater than 140 or diastolic (bottom #) greater than 90?
- ☐ Y ☐ N 4) Have you ever been diagnosed or treated for any heart disease, heart murmur, chest pain (angina), palpitations (irregular beat), or heart attack?
- ☐ Y ☐ N 5) Have you ever had heart surgery, angioplasty, or a pace maker, valve replacement, or heart transplant?
- ☐ Y ☐ N 6) Do you have a resting pulse greater than 100 beats per minute?
- ☐ Y ☐ N 7) Do you have any arthritis, back trouble, hip /knee/joint /pain, or any other bone or joint condition that could be aggravated or made worse by the Work Capacity Test?
- ☐ Y ☐ N 8) Do you have personal experience or doctor's advice of any other medical or physical reason that would prohibit you from taking the Work Capacity Test?
- ☐ Y ☐ N 9) Has your personal physician recommended against taking the Work Capacity Test because of asthma, diabetes, epilepsy or elevated cholesterol or a hernia?

Regardless whether you are taking the Work Capacity test at the Arduous, Moderate or Light duty level, a "Yes" answer requires a determination from your personal physician stating that you are able to participate.

I understand that if I need to be evaluated by a physician, it will be based on the fitness requirements of the position(s) for which I am qualified.

Signature: _____ Printed Name _____ Date _____

Unit: _____ City _____ State _____

Privacy Statement

The information obtained in the completion of this form is used to help determine whether an individual being considered for wildland firefighting can carry out those duties in a manner that will not place the candidate unduly at risk due to inadequate physical fitness and health. Its collection and use are covered under Privacy Act System of Records OPM/Govt-10 and are consistent with the provisions of 5 USC 552a (Privacy Act of 1974).

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0596-0164. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400

HEALTH SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE (HSQ)

Assess your health needs by marking all true statements.

Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 975-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

WCT Level

☐ Arduous

☐ Moderate

☐ Light

Work Capacity Test: Informed Consent

- **Pack Test–Arduous** The 3-mile test with a 45 pound pack in 45 minutes is strenuous, but no more so than the duties of wildland firefighting.
- **Field Test–Moderate** The 2-mile test with a 25 pound pack in 30 minutes is fairly strenuous, but no more so than the field duties.
- **Walk Test–Light** The 1-mile walk in 16 minutes is moderately strenuous, but no more so than the duties assigned.

Risks

- There is a slight risk of complications from participating in this test, including injuries (blisters, sore legs, sprains) but also heart attack, rhabdomyolysis, compartment syndrome, heat illness, and possibly death. If you have been inactive and have not practiced or trained for the test, you should engage in several weeks of specific training before you take the test. Be certain to warm up and stretch before taking the test, and to cool down after the test. By completing the Health Screening Questionnaire and/or a physical exam, the potential risk of serious consequences is reduced.

I have read the information on this form and in the brochure “Work Capacity Test”, understood and truthfully answered the Health Screening Questionnaire (if applicable), and understand the purpose, instructions, and risks of the job related to work capacity test.

Test to be Taken (check one) Pack test ☐ Field Test ☐ Walk Test ☐

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

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Unit: _____ City: _____ State: _____



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Southwestern Regional Office
Fire & Aviation Management



Nomination Form for Women in Wildland Fire Boot Camp

To: USDA Forest Service
Attn: Colleen Loretto
Fax: (505) 842-3806

From: _____